

1   What is claimed:

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3   1.   A tool for applying a sheet material to a surface of  
4       a vehicle, comprising:

5       - a locating assembly for locating the tool with  
6         respect to the vehicle, said locating assembly  
7         including a support frame and translation assembly  
8         for allowing relative movement between the vehicle  
9         and the tool; and

10      - an applicator for applying the sheet material to  
11       the surface, said applicator being supported by  
12       the support frame.

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14   2.   The tool as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the  
15       applicator comprises a spindle and a central core,  
16       the roll of sheet material formed around the central  
17       core.

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19   3.   The tool as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the support  
20       frame comprises a spar oriented along a first axis,  
21       the spar being suspended above the structure by the  
22       translation assembly.

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24   4.   The tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the spindle  
25       is attached to the spar in a perpendicular  
26       arrangement.

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28   5.   The tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the first  
29       axis is oriented perpendicularly to the surface, and  
30       the spindle is oriented parallel to the surface.

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32   6.   The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein two  
33       applicators are provided, one at each opposing end  
34       of the support frame.

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2 7. The tool as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the spindle  
3 is rotatable with respect to the support frame.

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5 8. The tool as claimed in Claim 7, wherein the spindle  
6 is provided with a clutch mechanism such that  
7 rotation of the spindle occurs at a predetermined  
8 torque.

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10 9. The tool as claimed in any of Claims 2, wherein the  
11 spindle is provided with a pair of buffers,  
12 positioned at either side of the roll of sheet  
13 material.

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15 10. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the  
16 translation assembly comprises one or more wheels.

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18 11. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, further comprising  
19 an auxiliary urging assembly adapted to effect  
20 releasable attachment of the sheet material to the  
21 surface.

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23 12. The tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the sheet  
24 material is an advertising display panel.

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26 13. A tool for applying a sheet material to a surface of  
27 a structure, the tool comprising:

28 - a locating assembly for locating the tool with  
29 respect to the structure, said locating assembly  
30 including a support frame and a translation  
31 assembly for allowing relative movement between  
32 the structure and the tool; and

- an applicator for applying the sheet material to the surface, said applicator being supported by the support frame.

14. A method for applying a sheet material to a surface of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

- locating a tool with respect to the vehicle, said tool comprising a support frame, a translation assembly, and an applicator supported by the support frame;
- removably attaching first portion of the sheet material onto the surface of the vehicle; and
- translating the tool with respect to the structure such that the applicator moves in a direction substantially parallel to the surface, thereby juxtaposing successive portions of the sheet material with the surface.

15. The method as claimed in Claim 14, comprising the additional step of forming the sheet material into a roll on a central core prior to the removable attachment of the first portion of sheet material.

16. A method for applying a sheet material to a surface of a structure, comprising the steps of:

- locating a tool with respect to the structure, said tool comprising a support frame, a translation assembly, and an applicator supported by the support frame;
- removably attaching first portion of the sheet material onto the surface of the structure; and
- translating the tool with respect to the structure such that the applicator moves in a direction substantially parallel to the surface, thereby

1           juxtaposing successive portions of the sheet  
2           material with the surface.